From: Joshua Powell, The Powell House Press
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Dear Readers,

Yesterday was “Friday the 13th” — I don’t know, for me, it felt damn lucky. I can’t really speak to anyone else’s experience, but I heard from many — and they’re feeling...*pitchfork* pissed.

I did hear, right before the proverbial midnight hour, from the town about my FOIL request. You can read it here.

Of course, as I have said, I am writing a weekly on this and this Wednesday’s article is gearing up. In the meantime, I’ve done some digging, as have a few dedicated boots on the ground in Chatham.

People should look at Chatham’s Code of Ethics where I found a provision that raises some questions. Specifically, Code of Ethics (Chapter 9, adopted by Local Law No. 1-2012). Click here to read.

Chatham’s own town ethics code governs how Collins must behave when he sits on the county Board of Supervisors. The disclosure obligation is imposed by the town, but it applies to his county-level participation.

One more thing there. It has to be on the record. Before any votes. And yes, this brings us way back to the summer. And yes, this is now a county issue — brewed and served in Chatham, but a county issue nonetheless.

Collins, as I’ve reported, has a relationship with Dr. Edwin Williams. When the Columbia County Board of Supervisors voted on a resolution adding properties to agricultural districts — a resolution that directly served Williams’s interests — Collins had a clear obligation under this provision to disclose his financial relationship with Williams.

Did he? I don’t know. But I intend to find out.

If he failed to disclose, that’s a potential violation of both Chatham’s own ethics code and New York General Municipal Law, Article 18. Penalties under the town code include fines up to $1,000, suspension, or removal from office.

On Monday I’m filing FOIL requests for Collins’s annual financial disclosure statements required under the town’s ethics code. And while I’m at it, I might as well ask the county if there was a disclosure to the Board of Supervisors. I mean it shouldn’t be hard. It’s on the record. Right? Stay tuned.

There’s more than one way to skin a cat. Keep reading and as always if you have something.

One more thing. Updates will be coming from this email address, while the articles themselves will continue to be published on Substack. You can access these at https://www.thepowellhousepress.com — you will land on a Substack page. You can subscribe or click “no thanks” and you will then land on a page where on the top menu will be The Wine Wars tab. All articles are there. What is not there are the emails I sent out from Substack. Unfortunately, these can’t be housed on Substack — but you can find the three I did send out about the Wine Wars in PDF format using these three links:

1. Dated 2/6/26
2. Dated 2/10/26
3. Dated 2/12/26

All other emails have links in the articles listed in “The Wine Wars.” I’ll try to create an index to all collateral information this week.

Also, between the online petition and the actual letters on the town board, well over 100 area residents are very opposed to this Fox Hill Vineyards. While Williams allegedly said “I don’t give a f**K what the neighbors think,” I wonder: what about the county, the town board and Mr. Collins — do they care?

Joshua Powell

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